

Great Britain Triumphant.

CONTAINING

A FULL EXPLANATION OF A //
S C H E M E
FOR STRENGTHENING and INVIGORATING
THE
B R I T I S H N A V Y,
AND
CAPTURING THE SHIPS OF WAR,
AND PRIVATEERS OF FRANCE;

Deeply interesting to *Britons* in general, and to *Gentlemen*
of the *Navy*, and *Merchants* in particular.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF

Certain other *schems*, now preparing to be laid before *Mr. Pitt*,
for raising IMMENSE SUPPLIES, for the purposes of *war*,
without burthening the people; and for lessening their
burthens in time of peace. Taking also some notice of
certain other of the Author's *inventions* and *contrivances*
both *political*, and *philosophical*.

Dedicated to His MAJESTY,
AND
Presented to the Right Hon.
WILLIAM PITT.

By THOMAS GERMAN, Gent.

L O N D O N, 1793.

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TO THE

KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

This little treatise on matters of very great importance is, with a heart replete with loyalty, and dutiful affection, to Your Majesty and Your Royal Family, most humbly inscribed,

By

Your Majesty's

truly loyal

and dutiful subject,

T. GERMAN.

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TO THE

Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT,

Chancellor of his Majesty's Exchequer.

It is the duty of every one to whom a new idea occurs which may be eminently serviceable to his king and country, to submit it to the judgement of a minister whose high office, and great abilities, enable him to reduce it to practice; and happy is the author of this short treatise that, at a crisis like the present, he has it in his power to submit to so penetrating an eye, the political scheme it contains, "*for invigorating the navy of Great Britain, and annihilating the Naval power of France.*" To you then, Sir, it is presented, and most humbly submitted, by

Your most respectful

and devoted servant,

T. GERMAN.

GREAT BRITAIN TRIUMPHANT.

PERHAPS there is scarcely a single science or art now in use, however easy and simple it may at present appear, that was not at some former period of time thought impossible, at least in its present improved state. Indeed divine providence seems to have permitted, or rather decreed, that some discoveries of great magnitude should have slept in oblivion a great number of ages, in order that they might be brought out at certain times, and to answer certain great purposes, in circumstances peculiar to the periods of their appearance; for certain it is, the greatest proficient in any art or science, though a man of the brightest imagination, the keenest penetration, and most brilliant talents, might rack his imagination, and strain his powers, in vain, for years together, to invent a new science

science, or even improve an old one, unless by some lucky thought, or rather an illumination of the diety, the thing faught for starts into his head in a moment ; and then what before seemed utterly impossible is found to be one of the most easy things imaginable, not only to himself but to others to whom he describes it. Hence, though the schemes and inventions which are the subject of this treatise will be found on explanation to be extremely easy and obvious, yet, such is their magnitude that the author is far from thinking that by his own powers alone he could have invented them ; he rather considers them as the gift of his Creator, and arrogates no further merit to himself than what arises from the study, labour, and perseverance he has bestowed in consequence of them.

God has given to every man his proper gift ; some are fitted for one office, or employ in life, and some for another ; the peculiar talent of the author of this little work is a genius for original invention ; but, though some of his contrivances are astonishing, he has no reason whatever to boast. Frequent absence in company and conversation, accompanied sometimes with an uncouth address,

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the natural consequences of the intense study and strained exertion of thought necessary to the completion of his inventions, and, above all, his neglect of the business and profits of a lucrative profession, and the sums he has expended in his philosophical experiments without yet having had any return, to the great injury of himself, his family, and friends, have made him wish, a thousand times, that he had never had any such talent. But if it be time, as it really is, and will be here completely proved so far as respects one of his schemes, and as to the others in another publication which will presently be more fully noticed, that not all the treasures of the *East*, joined to those of *Mexico* and *Peru*, could they all be realized to this country, would strengthen, and enrich it, so much as the schemes and discoveries he has invented are capable of doing ; it is certainly not fit that their inventor and his children, declining as he is into the vale of years, should any longer continue in the depressed circumstances to which his exertions and expences in the completion of his valuable contrivances for the service of his king and country, have alone reduced him ; and though, from this sole cause, he has struggled, for years, with

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adverse

adverse fortune, yet, from the magnitude of his inventions and their eminent usefulness, more especially at this particular crisis, he trusts the bounty of government will immediately put an end to his difficulties.

The scheme which he means in this treatise fully, but in few words, to explain, is a political one ; and though, extremely simple, is of vast importance. It points out no less an object than an easy and certain method of capturing, destroying, and annihilating the naval power of France. This, was the reader to stop here, might be thought a difficult, if not an impossible thing ; it will however presently appear extremely easy ; and then the author presumes he shall be entitled to some degree of credit respecting his other schemes of even *greater importance* which will be shortly spoken of in this treatise.

In order then to give a full explanation of his scheme for subduing and annihilating the naval power of France, it will be convenient previously to observe that the new French government have neglected and discouraged the trade of France, and particularly its West India trade, and suffered it to go to ruin, with a view of employing all French seamen as warriors, and turning their Merchant

chant ships into Privateers ; and which they are now actually fitting out, as such, in great numbers ; and it appears from the speeches of the late, and present Ministers of the French Marine to the National Convention, that having little trade of their own to protect they consider themselves as the better able to take prizes, and annoy the trade, and plunder the rich merchants of other countries ; and hence they expect to derive great emoluments, and that the sailors of other nations will enter with avidity into their navy with a view of sharing in the plunder. A scheme of *piracy* which, considering the naval power of France, and the eagerness with which seamen enter and fight when they have a view of taking rich prizes, coupled with the abominable scheme of the French to corrupt our sailors, by holding out strong temptations to them treacherously to deliver up their own ships, must, notwithstanding the tried loyalty and virtue of British seamen, be somewhat alarming not only to Great Britain but all other trading nations ; and to counteract such dangerous projects, by pointing out a method of capturing the ships of war, and privateers of the contrivers of them, the author considers as a service of the utmost importance to

his king and country ; and this he is enabled to do by means of a scheme, which, as he has already observed respecting his inventions in general, he considers as the gift of God ; intended, perhaps, in some degree, for the benefit of himself and family, but first and principally for the service of his Majesty and the nation ; as such he brings it forward at this critical period, without previously stipulating with government for a reward, and relying, with chearful confidence, on the munificent generosity of his king and country.

THE SCHEME IS BRIEFLY THUS :

“ A Spanish war was always a favorite object
 “ with British sailors, on account of the
 “ chance it afforded them of taking rich
 “ prizes ; but the present war is against
 “ France only, and the trade of France is
 “ now reduced to so low an ebb, that the
 “ chance of taking rich prizes is entirely on
 “ the side of the French, who, as has been
 “ before observed, expect great plunder, not
 “ only from Spanish ships but also from the
 “ Merchants of Great Britain and other
 “ Nations. To disappoint them in this,
 “ and counteract the detestable schemes of
 “ seduction they hold out to our sailors,
 “ and

“ and to the end that British seamen may
 “ have better encouragement to fight than
 “ the French, the author proposes that a
 “ gratuity or bounty, in the nature of prize
 “ money, shall be paid by the British go-
 “ vernment, to the officers and crews of
 “ every single British ship, or vessel, and the
 “ officers and crews of every fleet or number
 “ of ships or vessels, who shall take, or
 “ destroy, any armed French ship or ships,
 “ vessel or vessels, whether belonging to their
 “ government, or privateers ; such gratuity
 “ to be proportioned to the number of tuns
 “ burthen, and number and weight of metal
 “ of guns, of the ship or vessel, ships or ves-
 “ sels, so taken or destroyed ; that is, it is to
 “ be composed of a certain sum for every tun,
 “ and another certain sum for every gun,
 “ according to the weight of metal, of the
 “ ship or ships, vessel or vessels, of the enemy
 “ so to be taken or destroyed ; and as both
 “ the number of tuns, and number and weight
 “ of metal of guns, of the enemy so taken
 “ or destroyed, can be ascertained as soon as
 “ the battle is over, it will be a further
 “ encouragement to have the proposed gra-
 “ tuity paid to, and divided between, the
 “ British officers and seamen, as soon after-
 “ wards as their own ship or ships, vessel or
 “ vessels

“ vessels, in which they sail, shall respec-
 “ tively arrive at a capital English port; and
 “ to the widows, or representatives of such
 “ of them as shall be killed or die in the
 “ mean time. As to the amount of the gra-
 “ tuity or bounty per tun, and per number
 “ and weight of metal of guns, to be thus
 “ paid, the author rather chooses to submit
 “ it to the wisdom of government than to
 “ ascertain it exactly; but he will give his
 “ ideas on the subject, with pleasure, if cal-
 “ led upon. At present he contents him-
 “ self with observing that every ship taken
 “ from the enemy is twice as great an ac-
 “ quisition as a ship of equal force and good-
 “ ness built and fitted out by government,
 “ *inasmuch as it makes two ships difference,*
 “ *as being a ship subtracted from the enemy's*
 “ *power, and added to that of Great Britain;*
 “ so that the gratuity for every ship, armed
 “ boat, or vessel, of the enemy so taken
 “ ought to be very considerable; and, though
 “ the destruction of a ship makes but one
 “ ship difference between the power of the
 “ contending parties, yet, as it will some-
 “ times be practicable to burn or sink a ship
 “ which could not be captured, it may, per-
 “ haps, be politic to make the gratuity for
 “ so

“ so doing equally large, or nearly so, in or-
 “ der to encourage and promote the weak-
 “ ening the enemy by every possible mode.
 “ If government shall fix these gratuities as
 “ high as they will bear, and the SCHEMES
 “ FOR RAISING SUPPLIES which will
 “ presently be mentioned will amply afford,
 “ the Author, who passed great part of his
 “ early days at the port of Portsmouth, and
 “ is well acquainted with the heart and mind
 “ of a British Seaman, will take upon him-
 “ self to assert, without the least hesitation, that
 “ on passing an Act of Parliament and issuing
 “ a Proclamation to that effect, seamen will
 “ not only flock in multitudes before unpre-
 “ cedented to enter into the service of the
 “ British Government, but both officers and
 “ men will fight with an ardour, and alacrity,
 “ that will very soon clear the seas of French
 “ ships of war and privateers; so that the
 “ piratical iniquity they have contrived
 “ against this, and other trading nations,
 “ will bring upon their own heads that ven-
 “ geance it so justly merits: and this will be
 “ the better and sooner effected by extending
 “ the proposed gratuities to our privateers as
 “ well as to the ships and vessels of Govern-
 “ ment; and indeed unless this shall be done,
 “ such

“ such is the reduced state of the French
 “ trade, that, except the object of guarding
 “ their own property, there will be no encour-
 “ ragement but hard blows, for our mer-
 “ chants to fit out any privateers at all ; but
 “ extending these gratuities in their favour,
 “ and thus paying them for every privateer
 “ and armed vessel they shall take from the
 “ French, will afford them ample encourage-
 “ ment, and cause them to fit out privateers,
 “ in great strength and abundance, to cope
 “ with the privateers of France. In short
 “ the British men of war and privateers hav-
 “ ing so strong an inducement to fight which
 “ the French, possessing paper instead of
 “ cash, and wanting that credit and those re-
 “ sources which the British Government pos-
 “ sesses, cannot possibly give to theirs, the
 “ French seamen will want that courage,
 “ ardour, and alacrity, with which the
 “ prospect of gain always inspires a sailor,
 “ and consequently will fight to the utmost
 “ disadvantage, against men so inspired ; and
 “ hence these gratuities, stimulating the na-
 “ tive valour of British Officers and Seamen,
 “ and encouraging our merchants to fit out
 “ privateers, will, to a certainty, totally ruin
 “ the naval strength and power of France.
 “ The

“ The gratuities or bounties to be thus paid
 “ by government should, at all events, be so
 “ considerable as to make every French ship
 “ or vessel of war, though only a small pri-
 “ vateer, a tempting prize to the captors;
 “ and as the gratuities are to be proportioned
 “ to the number of tuns burthen, and num-
 “ ber and weight of guns, of the prizes, the
 “ larger French ships of war will, of course,
 “ hold out most animating temptations to
 “ the British hearts of oak. It is true that to
 “ do this, as it ought to be done, will re-
 “ quire considerable sums of money; but it
 “ is equally true that government cannot
 “ possibly apply the public cash, in any other
 “ way, to so great an advantage. This is so
 “ certain that were we to pay in this man-
 “ ner, double or treble the value, or even
 “ more (though much less may be sufficient)
 “ of the hull, guns, and rigging, of every
 “ ship of war, privateer, and armed boat or
 “ vessel to be taken from the French, and
 “ were thus to purchase their whole naval pow-
 “ er which would, with such encouragement,
 “ soon fall into our hands, the money would
 “ be exceedingly well bestowed, as being
 “ the most ready and effectual method of
 “ putting it out of the power of the French

“ to injure us, and of bringing about a speedy
 “ and happy conclusion of the war. The
 “ author apprehends that thus apportioning
 “ the gratuities or bounties to the tons bur-
 “ then, number of guns, and weight of me-
 “ tal, of the enemy taken, will be the best
 “ and fairest way of rewarding the captors,
 “ because it may sometimes happen that a small
 “ vessel may carry many guns and a large one
 “ few. The effect of the scheme however will
 “ be the same if the gratuities are apportioned
 “ to the number of men carried by the enemy,
 “ or in any other way, provided only that
 “ they are sufficiently large to operate as a
 “ stimulating encouragement to the officers
 “ and seamen of our navy, and the owners
 “ of our privateers. These gratuities would
 “ render pressing, and even extraordinary
 “ bounties to induce seamen to enter into
 “ the service of government unnecessary, by
 “ causing our seamen, and even those of
 “ foreign nations, to rush voluntarily into
 “ the British service. And it is worthy of
 “ remark, that among the seamen who re-
 “ ceive bounties to induce them to enter,
 “ great numbers, in the course of a war,
 “ either dying, being killed, or taken pri-
 “ soners, are never concerned in either ac-
 “ tually

“ tually taking or destroying an enemy’s
 “ ship or vessel ; and therefore paying gra-
 “ tuities, as here proposed, for ships and ves-
 “ sels actually taken and destroyed, not only
 “ as being the greatest inducement to seamen
 “ to enter, but, which is more, to fight
 “ with eagerness and alacrity, and a reward
 “ for services actually done, and never to be
 “ paid without signal service, is, in every
 “ point of view, the very best mode of re-
 “ warding them. For all these reasons the
 “ gratuities to be thus paid ought to be very
 “ liberal, nor should any expence be spared
 “ in a matter of such vast importance, even
 “ though resources were difficult to be found ;
 “ because the sums expended in this way,
 “ however great, would operate as the best
 “ œconomy, by disabling the enemy and
 “ promoting a speedy Peace. But the
 “ *Schemes of Resource* which will presently
 “ be mentioned, will afford such *ample*
 “ *supplies*, without inconvenience, as will
 “ make money no considerable object to
 “ the British government, and wholly do
 “ away every idea of want of cash for the
 “ purposes of war.”

Having thus stated, and fully explained,
 his scheme for capturing the men of war, and

privateers of France, the author requests permission here to repeat the observation, already made, that however easy and obvious a thing may appear after it is once contrived and explained, the very same *easy thing* might be thought incredible without an explanation. Hence had he only said that he had actually contrived a scheme which would infallibly soon bring the greatest part of the French ships of war and privateers into our ports, without explaining, as he has done, the manner of effecting it, easy and obvious as it now appears, it would scarcely have been deemed credible. He will be pardoned for thus repeatedly dwelling on this observation, which is only meant by way of introduction to his announcing to his country, his schemes of resource mentioned in the title page, and before alluded to, which, when explained, will appear equally easy and obvious, though so vast is their magnitude and utility, and so seemingly difficult the contrivance of them, that he should not be surpris'd if, at present, his readers were to think them impossible. They will however be very soon, and very happily, convinced of the contrary. The schemes alluded to are no less than *certain modes of raising supplies for the use of government*

ment by means of which MANY, very many, MILLIONS of money may be raised, nay much more than sufficient to carry on a TEN YEARS WAR was it necessary, without any additional burthen whatever on any class or description of his Majesty's subjects ; by means of certain expedients, which so far from being burthensome will benefit the people in general, and contrary to all other modes of resource will be approved of, and highly applauded by all ranks and degrees of men ; and, in case of peace, the vast fund these schemes can supply, is applicable to the lessening some of our present most disagreeable burthens. All this may, and no doubt does, at present appear incredible, if not impossible, to the reader. It is nevertheless true ; and the modes of effecting it, when explained, will be found so clear, and striking that the only wonder then will be that they were never thought of before : nor will the reader remain long in suspense on this head, for the author is now putting these important schemes of resource into a regular form for the inspection of Mr. Pitt, and as they require no secrecy, but will be the more approved of, the more they are examined, he proposes also to publish them, and do himself

self the honor to dedicate the work to that most able Minister.

The author has bestowed some years in perfecting the important schemes of resource just mentioned, and though he has before declared, and again repeats, that he is sensible they, any more than his above explained scheme for capturing the French navy, do not proceed from any extraordinary acuteness or sagacity of his own, and though he attributes them, as he has done that scheme, entirely to the gift of God for the service of his King and Country at a juncture like the present ; yet, as he has, by the favour of providence, been enabled to think of, and perfect these schemes, he hopes, for the reasons assigned at the beginning of this Treatise, that his labours will be so far countenanced and rewarded by his King and Country as to remove his present pecuniary difficulties, and render him in some degree independent ; the better to enable him to pursue without interruption his present work of putting these schemes of public resource into proper form for the use of Government, and for publication as above proposed. And this favor he flatters himself Government will think him not unworthy of, not only as a reward for the
scheme

scheme of capturing and subduing the French navy, which he has here fully explained, but also on account of the time he has lost, the sums he has expended, and the inconveniences he has suffered, for many years, by means of his expensive experiments in ascertaining and proving the force and powers of, he will be bold to say, the greatest of all philosophical inventions that ever God enabled any man to produce. An invention which, though he repeatedly proved its amazing powers by the most clear and satisfactory experiments many years ago, yet such is its prodigious force, and so superior to every thing ever before known either philosophical or mechanical, that, though he made frequent application to the Admiralty and Navy Boards, when Lord Sandwich presided at the former, and who was so obliging as to give him a letter of recommendation to the latter Board, he could not persuade the Honourable Commissioners of that Board, that the invention was possible, without disclosing the secrets of it. This the late worthy Admiral Gayton advised him not to do, because by discovering the whole secrets of the invention to so numerous a Board, there was some danger of so much of it transpiring as might
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put it in the power of some other person to claim the honour and profits of the contrivance. He, however, proposed at that time, as his letters both to the Admiralty and Navy Boards will prove, to erect on board any one of his Majesty's ships or vessels, large or small, a machine which should cause it to proceed with great expedition against both wind and tide, provided Government would only order him the use of a ship or vessel for the purpose, and defray the expence of his so doing, and give him an assurance in writing of his receiving a competent reward for an invention of such magnitude on his thus publicly proving its utility; and he also assured that Honourable Board, that if he failed in so doing, notwithstanding the great expences he had been at in private experiments, by which he had before proved it to his own satisfaction, he did not wish for, or expect a single farthing. But, though the fairness of this proposal could not be objected to, the invention seemed so impossible to the then Commissioners of the Navy Board, that he could not succeed in his application. Nor is he at all surpris'd at this; because what he proposed is certainly wholly impossible upon every principle of philosophy or mechanics heretofore

heretofore discovered, and yet known to any person but himself. And had he not discovered a certain most wonderful secret in nature, which he has never yet divulged to any person, he is too well acquainted with philosophical and mechanical experiments ever to have attempted it. And because since he first proposed to apply this secret principle of nature to the purpose of causing ships and vessels to pass with rapidity against both wind and tide, something of the same kind has been attempted by various persons, by means very inadequate to the purpose; he takes this opportunity of declaring that from the experiments he has made, and the great force and quickness requisite to effect the end proposed, neither steam engines, or any other means, short of the grand secret in nature he has mentioned, can, in that respect, ever possibly answer any useful purpose. Since he first proposed to apply this secret in nature to the use of shipping, he has proved its wonderful effects in divers ways and found it applicable to various other useful purposes, and the certain proofs he has derived from his experiments authorise him, without the least hesitation to affirm, that *this secret in Nature will, when disclosed, astonish the world, not*

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only

only by its performance with respect to shipping, but also by driving all sorts of mills and engines, and performing various works requiring vast force and strength, and some of them wholly impossible upon any other principles; and that without the assistance of wind, fire, or water, or any living animal. This invention is of such magnitude that it would be the highest presumption in the author to suppose he could have contrived it by his own powers alone; for, though his head is very fertile in original contrivances, and notwithstanding he has made a number of philosophical experiments, and studied experimental philosophy as much, perhaps, as any man ever did, yet the outline and first principles of this invention came into his head, as it were by accident, when a young man, between twenty and thirty years ago; and he has been ever since labouring in the improvement of it, and expended very considerable sums of money in bringing it to perfection. And having, by being too communicative, lost the benefit of some of his lesser inventions, such as his Air Balloon which was carried over to France, and brought out in the name of a Frenchman; and two other contrivances which he had the mortification to see brought forward

forward here, by persons who made fortunes by them without having the generosity even to acknowledge from whence they came, he has resolved never to make known this great philosophical invention till he shall have interest sufficient to procure an Act of Parliament, either to secure the profits of it to himself and children, who have hitherto been so great sufferers in consequence of it, or an adequate reward from Government for divulging its principles, and laying them open for the use and benefit of the public. And such an Act of Parliament he has great hopes of obtaining, as soon as he shall be sufficiently known by means of this publication, and the scheme contained in it for capturing the French navy; and by his before mentioned schemes for raising supplies for the use of Government, in a manner which will benefit, instead of burthening his fellow subjects.

F I N I S.